

Canada Atlantic cod (3Ps) - longline/trawl/gillnet/hook & line Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) Workplan

Table 1: Workplan Overview

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| Workplan Version and Date | V.0824 30 August 2024 |
| Start date (expected) | End date (anticipated month/year) |
| May 2017 | April 2026 |
| FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan) | Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development) |
| AGC/ Steve Devitt | FIP Participants |
| FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress) | Workplan developed by (consultant or person) |
| AGC/ Steve Devitt | Steve Devitt |

Unit of Assessment(s)

Table 2. Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)

| UoA 1 | Description |
|---|--|
| Target species (common and scientific name) | Atlantic Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) |
| Stock | NAFO 3Ps |
| Geographical area | The exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Canada, southern Newfoundland |
| Fishing method or gear type | Bottom Trawl |
| Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock | Mobile Gear Licence holders |
| UoA 2 | Description |

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| Target species (common and scientific name) | Atlantic Cod (Gadus morhua) |
| Stock | NAFO 3Ps |
| Geographical area | The exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Canada, southern Newfoundland |
| Fishing method or gear type | Gill net |
| Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock | Fix Gear Licence holders |
| UoA 3 | Description |
| Target species (common and scientific name) | Atlantic Cod (Gadus morhua) |
| Stock | NAFO 3Ps |
| Geographical area | The exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Canada, southern Newfoundland |
| Fishing method or gear type | Bottom Longline |
| Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock | Fix Gear Licence holders |
| UoA 4 | Description |
| Target species (common and scientific name) | Atlantic Cod (Gadus morhua) |
| Stock | NAFO 3Ps |
| Geographical area | The exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Canada, southern Newfoundland |
| Fishing method or gear type | Hook & Line |
| Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock | Fix Gear Licence holders |

Revised Action Plan

3Ps Cod: Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)

15 April 2024

Context

- A new state-space model was used to assess the 3Ps cod stock in 2021. The 2022 assessment determined the stock remained at 48% of Blim, up from 38% in 2020. The stock is in the Critical Zone as per the DFO Precautionary Approach.
- The 2017 terminated MSC Surveillance audit informally concluded that Principle 1 (Stock Status) had additional challenges that resulted in self-suspension of the MSC certificate.
- FIP actions are underway to prepare for improved stock status opportunities and MSC certification re-engagement.

The table below presents the completed and on-going FIP actions to improve fishery performance towards MSC Fisheries Standard (version 2.01) requirements. The agreed action plans, estimated budget, group responsible and target completion dates are presented below. The target completion dates identified below are based on the original timeline established when the FIP started in 2017.

[UPDATE NOTE APRIL 2024 – The FIP timeline has been updated to recognize the stock continues to be in a low biomass state and action deadlines need to be extended in recognition of this stock status. The FIP expects to review and revise the action plan over the course of the next 6 – 9 months, once the official rebuilding plan is authorized.]

| MSC Requirements (SG80) | Related Action Plan Tasks | Budget | Responsibility | Target Completion Date |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>PI 1.1.1a: It is highly likely that the stock is above the PRI.</p> | <p>Request a new framework RAP that will produce a new assessment model to confirm stock status.</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>DFO Science/ Resource Management</p> | <p>Completed September 2020</p> |
| <p>PI 1.1.1.b: The stock is at or fluctuating around its target reference point.</p> | <p>Annually monitor the 3Ps cod stock relative to reference points for spawning stock biomass as represented by stock assessment indices and the decision rules described in the 3Ps Cod Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy.</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>DFO Science</p> | <p>On-going annually. April 2026</p> |
| <p>PI 1.1.2a: A rebuilding timeframe is specified for the depleted stock that is the shorter of 20 years or 2 times its generation time. For cases where 2 generations is less than 5 years, the rebuilding timeframe is up to 5 years.</p> <p>PI 1.1.2b: There is evidence that the rebuilding strategies are rebuilding stocks, or it is highly likely based on simulation modelling or previous performance that they will be able to rebuild the stock within the specified timeframe.</p> | <p>Ensure that new model has projection capabilities.</p> <p>Project rebuilding timeline at different catch scenarios.</p> <p>Assess rebuilding timelines according to different catch scenarios against specified timeframe.</p> | <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> | <p>DFO Science</p> <p>DFO Science</p> <p>DFO Science</p> | <p>April 2026</p> |

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| <p>PI 1.2.1a: The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.</p> <p>PI 1.2.1b: The harvest strategy may not have been fully tested but evidence exists that it is achieving its objectives.</p> | <p>Develop new harvest strategy</p> <p>Test effectiveness of HCRs</p> | <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> | <p>DFO Science / DFO Resource Management</p> <p>DFO Science / DFO Resource Management</p> | <p>April 2026 (including French Approval if necessary)</p> |
| <p>PI 1.2.2c: Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p> | <p>Adopt effective HCR</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>DFO Resource Management</p> | <p>April 2026 (including French Approval if necessary)</p> |
| <p>PI 1.2.4a: Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p> | <p>Conduct Framework RAP to review existing and suggested models.</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>DFO Science</p> | <p>Completed September 2020</p> |
| <p>PI 2.1.3a: Some qualitative information is and is adequate to assess the impact of the UoA on the main primary species with respect to status.</p> <p>PI 2.1.3c: Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main primary species.</p> | <p>Develop methodology to determine herring bait usage from reported landings of 3Ps cod by longline and hand-line fishing gears.</p> <p>Implement methodology and annually determine quantities of herring bait supplied to hand-line and longline fishermen fishing 3Ps cod.</p> <p>Assess the risk to local herring stocks of bait supplies in the 3Ps cod fishery.</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>AGC (in cooperation with DFO Resource Management)</p> | <p>Completed August 2020</p> |

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| <p>PI 2.2.3a: Some quantitative information is available and is adequate to assessment impact of the UoA on the main secondary species with respect to status.</p> <p>PI 2.2.3c: Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main secondary species.</p> | <p>Develop annual bycatch monitoring program using observer coverage, sentinel program, fisheries logbooks and DFO research survey data.</p> <p>Implement an annual bycatch monitoring program.</p> <p>Assess the monitoring program.</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>AGC (in cooperation with DFO Resource Management)</p> | <p>Completed September 2020</p> |
| <p>PI 2.3.3a: Some quantitative information is available and is adequate the UoA related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species.</p> <p>PI 2.3.3b: Information is adequate to measure trends and support a strategy to manage impacts on ETP species.</p> | <p>Develop a comprehensive annual ETP monitoring program using observer coverage, sentinel program, logbooks and surveys.</p> <p>Implement an annual ETP monitoring program and annual estimation of fishery related mortality.</p> <p>Assess the monitoring program.</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>AGC (in cooperation with DFO Resource Management)</p> | <p>Completed September 2020</p> |
| <p>PI 2.4.3b: Information is adequate to allow for identification of the main impacts of the UoA on the main habitats, and there is reliable information on the spatial extent of interaction and on the timing and location of use of the fishing gear.</p> | <p>Provide information in the form of mapping on the spatial extent, timing and location of fishing gears fishing 3Ps cod relative to habitat types.</p> | <p>\$5K</p> | <p>AGC</p> | <p>Completed September 2020</p> |
| <p>PI 3.1.2a: Organisations and individuals involved in the management process have been identified. Functions, roles and responsibilities are explicitly defined and well understood for key areas of responsibility and interaction.</p> | <p>Develop clear terms of reference and a membership list for the Groundfish Advisory Committee (GAC).</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>DFO Resource Management</p> | <p>Completed September 2020</p> |

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| <p>PI 3.1.2c: The consultation process provides opportunity for all interested and affected parties to be involved.</p> | <p>Hold regular GAC meetings to receive and consider relevant information on 3Ps cod and other groundfish fisheries, and where appropriate, for incorporation into fisheries management. Other interested and affected parties can contact the chair to arrange to attend. Regular meeting minutes will be provided to meeting participants.</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>DFO Resource Management</p> | <p>Completed September 2020</p> |
| <p>PI 3.2.3b: Sanctions to deal with non-compliance exist, are consistently applied and thought to provide effective deterrence.</p> | <p>Conduct a review of the utility of the <35' Logbook Program as a fishery management tool and consider any alternatives.</p> <p>Consult the GAC on the review; DFO to decide whether to continue and/or change the 35' Logbook Program.</p> <p>If the <35' logbook is maintained as a condition of licence, the DFO will consider action for non-compliance.</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>AGC (in cooperation with DFO Resource Management)</p> | <p>April 2026</p> |